

CLAIMS

I claim:

1 1. An integral golf ball lifter for attachment to a shaft
2 such as a golf club grip having a generally cylindrical body
3 having a central axis, said body being made of resilient
4 elastomeric material and comprising:

5 a tubular attachment portion extending along said central
6 axis;

7 said attachment portion defining a grip receiving cavity
8 having an entrance lip, an inner sidewall, an inner endwall, an
9 outer sidewall, and a circumferential outer edge, said inner
10 sidewall extending axially from said entrance lip to said inner
11 endwall, said outer sidewall extending axially from said
12 entrance lip to said circumferential outer edge; and

13 a tubular golf ball engaging portion extending axially
14 outward from said attachment portion along said central axis;

15 said golf ball engaging portion having a generally
16 cylindrical wall extending from said circumferential outer edge
and an inner end wall; said cylindrical wall and said inner end

1 wall defining a golf ball receiving cavity; said cylindrical
2 wall comprising gripping fingers extending axially outward
3 from an axial location spaced from said inner wall and defined
4 by longitudinal edges forming slits therebetween; said gripping
5 fingers having griping lips at a common axial end location;

6 whereby said golf ball lifter is mounted on a shaft such
7 as a golf club grip by means of said attachment portion grip
8 receiving cavity;

9 whereby said gripping finger lips are placed over and
10 against the upper portion of a golf ball resting on a surface
11 such as a grassy surface or the bottom of a golf cup by a users
12 manipulating a golf club shaft extending from the golf club
13 grip; and

14 whereby said user applies downward pressure on the shaft,
15 forcing said gripping fingers to expand radially outward around
16 the upper surface of the golf ball to a point such that said
17 gripping fingers grasp the ball within said ball receiving
18 cavity with sufficient force to allow the ball to be lifted
19 from the surface to an elevation easily reached by the user's
20 hand by manipulation of the shaft.

1 2. The golf ball lifter of claim 1, wherein each said
2 gripping finger has an inner wall surface and comprises at
3 least one gripping rib extending radially inward from said
4 inner wall surface and extending axially parallel to said
5 gripping finger lip in the vicinity thereof.

1 3. The golf ball lifter of claim 2, wherein an outer one
2 of said at least one gripping ribs is a radially inward
3 extension of said gripping finger lip.

1 4. The golf ball lifter of claim 3, further comprising a
2 second gripping rib spaced radially inward from said outer
3 gripping rib.

1 5. The golf ball lifter of claim 4, wherein said gripping
2 fingers are each in the form of a truncated triangle, said lips
3 forming a segmented circle.

1 6. The golf ball lifter of claim 5, wherein said gripping
2 fingers define triangular slits extending from a point axially
3 spaced outward from said circumferential outer edge outward to
4 said gripping finger lips.

1 7. The golf ball lifter of claim 6, wherein said golf
2 ball engaging portion cylindrical wall defines circular

3 gripping finger edge joints from which corresponding said
4 triangular slits longitudinally outwardly extend.

1 8. The golf ball lifter of claim 7, wherein said golf
2 ball engaging portion comprises four golf ball engaging fingers
3 defining four triangular slits.

1 9. The golf ball lifter of claim 8, wherein said ball
2 engaging portion tapers axially inward from said
3 circumferential outer edge to said gripping finger lips.

1 10. The golf ball lifter of claim 9, wherein said tubular
2 attachment portion outer wall tapers axially inward from said
3 circumferential outer edge to said entrance lip.

1 11. The golf ball lifter of claim 10, wherein said
2 resilient elastomeric material is flexible, yet relatively
3 stiff plastic or rubber material such as that used to make
4 furniture leg coasters.

1 12. The golf ball lifter of claim 10, wherein said
2 gripping fingers are identical in dimensions.

1 13. The golf ball lifter of claim 10, wherein said each
2 of said gripping ribs extend the entire radial distance between
3 longitudinal edges of its respective gripping finger.

1 14. The golf ball lifter of claim 10, wherein the overall
2 length of said cylindrical body is about 2 3/4 inches and the
3 maximum diameter is about 1 5/8 inches at said circumferential
4 outer edge.

1 15. The golf ball lifter of claim 10, wherein the maximum
2 diameter of said grip attachment lip is about 1 5/16 inches,
3 the inside diameter of tubular attachment portion forming said
4 grip receiving cavity is about 1 1/16 inches, and the depth of
5 the grip receiving cavity is about 1 1/16 inches axial length
6 between said lip and said inner wall thereof.

1 16. The golf ball lifter of claim 10, wherein the
2 diameter of the ball engaging portion when at rest is about 1
3 3/8 inches at said gripping finger lips, the internal axial
4 length of said golf ball receiving cavity between said finger
5 lips and said inner wall is about 1 1/4 inches, and the

6 thickness of the engaging portion wall including said gripping
7 fingers is about 1/8 inch.

1 17. The golf ball lifter of claim 16, wherein the
2 diameter of said circular finger edge joints is about 1/4 inch
3 and the spacing between gripping fingers at rest as measured
4 between the respective lips is about 3/8 inches.

1 18. The golf ball lifter of claim 16, wherein the radial
2 thickness of the bead shaped gripping ribs is about from 1 to 2
3 millimeters and the axial spacing of said inner gripping rib
4 from said outer gripping rib is about 0.5 millimeters.